

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended to correct minor some informalities of which the undersigned has become aware, including all of the informalities pointed out by the Examiner.

Submitted herewith are marked copies of the changed pages to show that no new matter has been added, and full replacement paragraphs are set forth hereinabove.

It is respectfully requested that the amendments to the specification be approved and entered, and that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 have been canceled, without prejudice, and new claims 10-19 have been added to more clearly recite the distinguishing features of the present invention.

More specifically, new independent claim 10 has been added to recite the features of the method of the present invention whereby an electronic image data transmitting service is achieved by: receiving a request from a customer at a shop together with a recording medium having an image and an address of a receiver to which electronic image data are to be transmitted in response to

the request; inputting the address of the receiver; converting the image of the recording medium into electronic image data, and storing the electronic image data in a memory; and transmitting the electronic image data to the address of the receiver by a transmitting device through a communication system, as supported by the disclosure in the specification and drawings.

New claims 11-19, moreover, recite various additional features of the present invention which are disclosed in the specification and drawings.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the new claims are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 USC 112. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the new claims be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 6,017,157 ("Garfinkle"), and claims 1-4 and 7-9 were further rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 6,324,521 ("Shiota et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to new claims 10-19.

According to the present invention as recited in new claim 10, a method is provided whereby a shop clerk at a shop receives a request for an electronic image data transmitting service from a customer, together with a recording medium having an image and an address of a receiver to which electronic image

data are to be transmitted. That is, according to the method of the claimed present invention, a customer requests the electronic image data transmitting service when submitting a recording medium such as a film to a shop clerk. At that time, the customer provides the shop clerk with an address of a receiver to which electronic image data are to be transmitted, and the shop clerk inputs the address of the receiver. Thereafter, the shop clerk converts the image on the recording medium into electronic image data and transmits the electronic image data to the address of the receiver by a transmitting device through a communication system. Therefore, even if the customer does not have a device for converting an image into electronic image data and a transmitting device capable of transmitting the electronic image data through a communication system, the customer can send the electronic image data to a receiver through the shop.

Accordingly, the claimed present invention enables any customer to transmit electronic image data at a low cost without special devices.

In addition, since according to the claimed present invention the customer provides the shop clerk with an address of the receiver to which the electronic image data are to be transmitted at the time of submitting the recording medium to the shop clerk, and since the shop clerk inputs the address of the receiver, it will not be necessary to again provide such

information on a second or subsequent visits to the shop, thereby increasing convenience to the user.

Still further, according to the present invention as recited in new claim 19 the recording medium may be returned to an address designated by the customer, so that it will not even be necessary for the customer to even visit the shop again, thereby also increasing convenience to the user.

As described above, the claimed present invention provides a convenient method whereby a customer can transmit electronic image data at a low cost without special devices.

Garfinkle et al appears to teach a service for converting an image into electronic image data and for storing the electronic image data in an image server. However, as recognized by the Examiner on page 3 lines 10-11 in section 4 of the Office Action, Garfinkle et al teaches that the customer (i.e., photographer) "selects" to receive an electronic image when he accesses thumbnail images through the interface B. That is, in Garfinkle et al, the interface B allows the customer to perform specific tasks using a digital image, such as the ability to send an image electronically (by e-mail) to another party. (See Garfinkle at column 5 lines 21-23.)

Accordingly, with the method of Garfinkle et al, it is necessary for the customer himself to use a communicating device to access the image server and for the customer himself to transmit an image to another party. And it is respectfully

submitted that Garfinkle et al teaches nothing at all about the above described features of the method of the claimed present invention which enable any customer to conveniently transmit electronic image data at a low cost without special devices.

In addition, it is noted that with the method of Garfinkle et al it is necessary for the customer to use additional time to access the image server in order to send the electronic image data. By contrast, as discussed above, according to the method of the claimed present invention, it is possible for any customer to transmit electronic image data at low cost without special devices without using additional time to access the image server or to again visit the shop.

With respect to Shiota et al, moreover, it is noted that the Examiner has pointed to the disclosure in Fig. 8 and at column 7, lines 3-37 as being relevant to the present invention. This portion of Shiota et al, however, merely discloses that a customer may access an image server and order an extra print for delivered to an agency where the extra print will be delivered to the customer. And it is respectfully submitted that Shiota et al teaches nothing at all about the features of the method of the present invention whereby the customer requests the electronic image data transmitting service when submitting a recording medium (such as a film) to a shop, and whereby an address of a receiver to which the electronic image data are to be transmitted is provided by the customer and input (by the shop clerk).

In addition, it is respectfully pointed out that in Shiota et al, the electronic image data are only stored in the image server and are not transmitted to a receiver designated by the customer. Indeed, in Shiota et al electronic image data is not even delivered - but rather, it is the extra prints which are delivered to the customer. For this reason, it is respectfully submitted that Shiota et al clearly fails to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed features of the method of the present invention as recited in the new claims for achieving an electronic image data transmitting service.

In summary, the claimed present invention provides a convenient method whereby a customer can transmit electronic image data at a low cost without special devices, and it is respectfully submitted that neither Garfinkle et al nor Shiota et al disclose, teach or suggest the claimed features of the present invention as recited in the new claims.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the new claims patentably distinguish over the teachings of Garfinkle et al and Shiota et al, taken singly or in combination, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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Further, there exists a system by which the electronic image data read out by the scanner is exhibited on a specific site and the image data can be observed.

In the conventional simultaneous print system, the negative film and print can be obtained, however, when the electronic image is wanted, it is necessary that the reading apparatus is purchased by the person himself, or the request is made to the lab and the electronic image data is written into a medium such as the CD. In any of the methods, cost is required, and the operation to use the electronic image data is troublesome.

Further, when an interested person such as the friend, acquaintance, and relative of the user, wants to have the photographic print photographed by the user, it is necessary that the interested person asks the user to order the extra print, and it is troublesome.

17 Further, there may be considered a method of providing electronic image information, wherein the developing laboratory records the electronic image information for each customer in a web-site of an internet and transmits an address of the web-site to the customer and the customer ^{views} ~~looks~~ the electronic image information ^{on} ~~the~~ web-site at the address. However, in ^{order} ~~the case~~ to use the above method, since ^a ~~other~~ person ^{can} ~~than~~ the customer ^{view} ~~also looks~~ the electronic

5 image information by inputting the address, it is necessary to make the address to be ~~more~~^d complicate or to use a complicate^d pass word in order to ~~keep the secrecy~~^{maintain appropriate security} sufficiently. As a result, it may become difficult to obtain the electronic image information easily.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

7 An object of the present invention is to solve the above^{described} problem, ^s as ^{achieved} ~~it can be attained~~ by the following method^s

9 and/or the following systems.

(1-1) A method for accomplishing an electronic image information transmitting service, comprises steps of:

selecting by a second party whether or not to receive the electronic image information transmitting service;

inputting by a first party with an inputting means information regarding the second party and a selection result by the second party in the selecting step;

converting by the first party an image on a developed photographic film or on a developed photographic paper exposed based on the developed photographic film into electronic image information when the second party selects so as to receive the electronic image information transmitting service;



selected by the user whether the electronic image transmission service is received, is also inputted into the input means 1. When the user receives the electronic image transmission service, the user specifies the reception destination of the electronic image. The specified reception destination is inputted into the input means 1.

When the user selects to receive the electronic image transmission service, an image from the development processed photographic film or an image of a print 6 from the film, is converted into the electronic image by using the conversion means 2.

The converted electronic image is accumulated in an accumulation means 3. The accumulated electronic image is transmitted to a reception destination 4 specified by the user by a transmission means 7 through a communication means 5.

The electronic image to be transmitted is transmitted as an index system as shown in Fig. 1, or for each image as shown in Fig. 2.

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In the present invention, the development processing may also be a generally conducted color development processing or monochromatic development processing, or a development processing in which a part of the processes according to the development processing such as a ~~bleaching~~ ^{bleaching} ~~bleaching~~.

process, a fixing process, or a drying process, in the
2 processes of the development processing, is omitted.

In the present invention, a means for converting an image from the development processed photographic film or an image of a print from the photographic film into the electronic image is not particularly limited when the conversion means is a means by which the image from the development processed photographic film or the image of a print from the photographic film can be converted into the electronic image, and specifically, a means by which the image from photographic film or an image of a print from the photographic film is read by a scanner, and the image is converted into the electronic image, is preferably used.

In the present invention, as the accumulation means for accumulating the electronic image, any of a recording medium such as a server on the network, hard disk of the personal computer, magnetic disk, or optical disk, may be allowable, and it is particularly preferable to use the server on the network.

In the present invention, as the communication means, any one of a communication using a wireless communication, satellite communication, optical communication, or communication using telephone line, and a communication using a cable television line may be used.

In the present invention, the transmission means may be a means having a means which can transmit the image data to a reception destination specified by a user, and for example, a mail software of a personal computer corresponds to this.

In the present invention, the user information input means may be a terminal equipment by which the user information can be inputted at the time of the order reception at the shop or collection place.

9 As ~~X~~ specific input operations, when the user makes ^a request ~~of~~ ^{for} the development processing of the exposed photographic film, he selects whether he ^{would like to also receive} ~~receives~~ the electronic image transmission service, ^{and} the person in the shop or collection place inputs the selection result and the user information (for example, address, name, telephone number, electronic mail address, etc.) by the input means. Further, it is preferable that the user information once inputted by the input means is accumulated in the accumulation means. When the user information is accumulated, at the time of ^a ~~the~~ second ^{or} ~~and the~~ subsequent ^{visit} ~~time coming~~ to the shop, because the address and name are already stored, the operation to ^{omitted} ~~neglected~~ ^{input again} the information can be ~~neglected~~.

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When the user selects to receive the electronic image transmission service, the electronic image is transmitted to the reception destination specified by the user. The

reception destination specified by the user may be a single location or a plurality of locations. The reception destination may be a computer terminal equipment of the user's home, computer terminal equipment of the user's place of employment, or computer terminal equipment of the acquaintance, friend, or relatives, further, a portable telephone by which the electronic image can be received, mobile terminal equipment, and when it is an equipment by which the electronic image can be received, it is not particularly limited.

The received exposed photographic film is development processed, and when the user desires to receive the electronic image transmission service, the image from the photographic film, or an image of the print from the photographic film is further read by the scanner, and converted into the electronic image and accumulated in the accumulation means.

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The accumulated electronic image is transmitted to the reception destination specified by the user by the transmission means according to the inputted user information. The transmitted electronic image may be either one of a so-called index system ~~10~~ (refer to Fig. 1), in which, when it is received and viewed, a plurality of images are displayed on ^{an} ~~a~~ image plane ~~X~~, or a system in which the

electronic image is individually transmitted one sheet by one sheet ~~10~~ (refer to Fig. 2). When the reception destination specified by the user has the large image plane as ⁱⁿ the case of a personal computer, the index system is preferable, and when the image plane is small as ^{in case of a} the portable telephone by which the image can be received, the system in which the image is individually transmitted ~~X~~ is preferable. The user can select
8 the transmission system.

The electronic image information to be transmitted to the user (customer) may be identical to the electronic image information stored in the accumulation means 3. However, it may be preferable that the electronic image information to be transmitted to the user is electronic image information converted into a small volume to an extent capable of confirming the image from the view point of transmission speed. Also, it may be preferable to select the converted volume of the electronic image information in accordance with the request of the user. Further, it may be possible to improve the transmission speed by transmitting the electronic image information after compressing the electronic image information.

When the electronic image is transmitted to the reception destination specified by the user, as the information other than the electronic image, the information